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Concert: Black History Month

Baruch Whitehead

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Black History Month Concert

Baruch J. Whitehead, director

Ford Hall

Friday, February 24, 2012

8:15 p.m.



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

Program

Üskûdar

Traditional Turkish arr. Sletto

Choraliers

Emily Mason, director

Elizabeth Leger, accompanist

Mike Reinemann and Michelle McGuire, clarinet

Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters President Barack Obama

*Mrs. Maynard's 3rd grade class from Beverly J. Martin Elementary School
and the Choraliers.*

Dr. Nia Makepeace, narrator

Aidan Boardman, accompanist

Suite for Cello

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Hamadi Duggan, cello

I Opened My Mouth to the Lord

Traditional

Just Tell Jesus

arr. B. Whitehead

Standing in the Need of Prayer

R. Wise

Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers

Fume Fume

Traditional

West African Drumming piece

IC Percussion

Miniatures

William Grant Still

Ride An Old Paint (U.S.A.)

(1895-1978)

Adolorido (Mexico)

Dean of African-American Music

Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land (U.S.A.)

Yaravi (Peru)

A Frog Went-a-Courtin (U.S.A.)

Justine Stephens, flute

Candance Crawford, oboe

Dashay Glover, piano

Pacha

Traditional

West African Social Dance

Kpanlogo

Traditional

West African Recreational dance

Worlds of Music Class

Biographies

Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers

The mission of the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers of Ithaca, New York is to preserve the uniquely American art form of the formal concert style "Negro Spiritual." We welcome all people regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, sexual preference, political views or socio-economic status who wish to audition to join the choir. Our singers share a common love of this amazing body of music and our deep belief that this music still carries the power to bring social justice to our world.

Established in 2010, the group is named in honor of civil rights pioneer Dorothy Cotton, a resident of Ithaca, New York, who served as education director for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference along side Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and continues to spread her message of freedom and hope to people around the world through music.

We believe that understanding the origin of this remarkable music helps our singers and audience appreciate its musicality and the historic nature and power of it. The Negro Spiritual is an American treasure symbolizing hope, faith and perseverance in our efforts to bring freedom and social justice to all peoples of the earth.

Contact Baruch Whitehead for audition information bwhitehead@ithaca.edu
New programming starts Wednesday January 25, 2012

William Grant Still

Long known as the "Dean of African-American Composers," as well as one of Americas foremost composers, William Grant Still has had the distinction of becoming a legend in his own lifetime. On May 11, 1895, he was born in Woodville (Wilkinson County) Mississippi, to parents who were teachers and musicians. They were of Black, Indian, Spanish, Irish and Scotch bloods. When William was only a few months old, his father died and his mother took him to Little Rock, Arkansas, where she taught English in the high school. There his musical education began--with violin lessons from a private teacher, and with later inspiration from the Red Seal operatic recordings bought for him by his stepfather.

In Wilberforce University, he took courses leading to a B.S. degree, but spent most of his time conducting the band, learning to play the various instruments involved and making his initial attempts to compose and to orchestrate. His subsequent studies at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music were financed at first by a legacy from his father, and later by a scholarship established just for him by the faculty.

At the end of his college years, he entered the world of commercial (popular) music, playing in orchestras and orchestrating, working in particular with the violin, cello and oboe. His employers included W. C. Handy, Don Voorhees, Sophie Tucker, Paul Whiteman, Willard Robison and Artie Shaw, and for several years he arranged and conducted the Deep River Hour over CBS and WOR. While in Boston playing oboe in the Shuffle Along orchestra, Still applied to study at the New England Conservatory with George Chadwick, and was again rewarded with a scholarship due to Mr. Chadwick's own vision and generosity. He also studied, again on an individual scholarship, with the noted ultra-modern composer, Edgard Varese.

Upcoming Events

February

27 - Hockett - 7:00pm - Composition Premieres III

28 - Ford - 8:15pm - Symphonic Band

29 - Ford - 8:15pm - Concert Band

March

2 - Hockett - 3:00pm - Mary Hayes North Competition for Senior Piano Majors

2 - Ford - 8:15pm - Percussion Ensembles

4 - Ford - 4:00pm - Symphony Orchestra

4 - Hockett - 7:00pm - Patrice Pastore, soprano; Diane Birr, piano

5 - Nabenhauer - 4:00pm - Masterclass: Joe Alessi, trombone

5 - Ford - 8:15pm - Jazz Ensemble

6 - Hockett - 7:00pm - Louis K. Thaler Concert Violinist Series: Brian Lewis, masterclass

6 - Ford - 8:15pm - Brass Choir/Women's Chorale

7 - Ford - 8:15pm - Louis K. Thaler Concert Violinist Series: Brian Lewis, violin

8 - Ford - 8:15pm - Wind Ensemble

10 - Ford - 8:00pm - Cayuga Chamber Orchestra

19 - Ford - 8:15pm - Frank Campos and Djug Django